

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 An expandable toy comprising:

a plurality of fabric panels having an exterior and an interior surface and joined to one another along their sides forming desired shape and defining an interior space as well as a single aperture that provides access to said interior space;

a plurality of elastic bands running along on said interior surface of said plurality of fabric panels;

an inflatable device disposed within said interior space, wherein an inflation tube of said inflation device is accessible through said single aperture; and

a lid that removably covers said single aperture so that said interior space is inaccessible;

wherein air is forced into said inflation device, expanding said inflation device and said plurality of elastic bands so that the expandable toy may achieve a desired size;

and

wherein said inflatable device is sealed and said lid covers said single aperture when said desired size is achieved.

2. The expandable toy of claim 1, wherein said fabric panels form seams on said exterior surface where they are joined.

3. The expandable toy of claim 2, wherein said plurality of elastic bands run along said seams on said interior surface.

4. The expandable toy of claim 1, wherein said plurality of elastic bands further comprise at least one circumferential elastic band on said interior surface of said plurality of fabric panels that encircles said interior space.

5. The expandable toy of claim 1, further comprising at least one fastener on said exterior surface of said plurality of fabric panels, wherein two components of said at

least one fastener are separated by a defined distance so that when said at least one snap closure is engaged it decreases said exterior surface of the expandable toy.

6. The expandable toy of claim 1, further comprising animal features on said exterior surface of said plurality of fabric panels.

7. The expandable toy of claim 4, wherein said fabric lid is a fabric hat.

8. The expandable toy of claim 4, wherein said animal features comprise a face, arms, legs and a tail.

9. The expandable toy of claim 1, wherein said inflatable device comprises a beach ball.

10. The expandable toy of claim 1, wherein said inflatable device is attached to an interior region of said fabric panels.

10. A method of expanding an expandable toy comprising the steps of:

inserting an inflation device into an interior space of the expandable toy through a single aperture in the expandable toy;

inflating said inflation device;

increasing the size of the expandable toy when said inflation device pushes on an interior surface of the expandable toy;

expanding a plurality of elastic bands that run along said interior surface of the expandable toy;

ceasing inflation when the expandable toy has reached a desired size or when said expandable toy is fully expanded;

sealing said inflation device; and

closing said single aperture with a lid so that said inflation device is inaccessible.